

## **HTPC Marriage Class- *Reforming Marriage***

**Week 6: April 24, 2022**

**Chapters 3-5: “Duties of Husbands and Wives”; “Efficacious Love”; “Keeping Short Accounts”**

### **Chapter 3: “Duties of Husbands and Wives”**

#### **The Privileges of Marital Duty (p. 41)**

What does your practical/functional theology of the relationship between love and law look like in your home? Do you know the joy of disciplined, joyful expressions of active love?

For the following two sections, please prayerfully and SPECIFICALLY write down what your life looks like in these regards. Men, I will say again, if we were to consider God’s requirements of us as Christian men and repent of particular sins particularly and go to the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ, so many other things in our homes, in the church and even in the culture would simultaneously be addressed. May God grant the gift of true repentance and fruit in keeping with it.

#### **Biblical Duties of the Husband (pp. 42-45)**

1. “A husband must always remember that he is a living picture of the Lord Jesus” (p. 42). 2. “...he must learn to imitate Christ in character as well” (42). 3. “A husband must be jealous and protective” (43). 4. “...a husband must supply his wife with the food she needs...[and] the clothing she needs” (43-44). 5. “A husband must also meet his wife’s sexual needs” (including child-bearing) (44). 6. “A husband must be content with his wife” (44).

#### **Biblical Duties of Wives (pp. 46-49)**

1. “...a wife must respect her husband” (46). 2. “...bear children” (46). 3. “...being industrious in the home” (47). 4. “...keep the home well-supplied with food and clothing” (47). 5. “A wife must meet her husband’s sexual needs” (48). 5. “A wife must carefully avoid nagging and arguing” (48). 6. “...a wife should be a disciple of her husband” (49). 7. “A Christian wife should be hard-working in works of charity” (49).

**Chapter 4: “Efficacious Love”**— Men, again, buckle your seat belts. While we need to be careful not to overreach (and I think Wilson borders on overreaching in a place or two), we must hear the truth of this chapter. We simply must.

#### **Love Bestows Loveliness (pp. 51-53)**

Discuss the relationship between a woman’s beauty (in the fullest sense of that word) and the treatment of her father and/or husband. Do you agree that when a woman gets married, “all who know them should expect to see her flourish and grow in loveliness in the years to come”? (52) Men, is this what you signed up for when you got married, or what you think about as you consider marriage?

## **The Fact of Physical Beauty, True Beauty (pp. 53-57)**

How do you assess Wilson's discussion of beauty? Where are you inclined to err in this discussion? How do we rightly stress the truths Wilson has identified while also maintaining individual responsibility? How does the Gospel of Jesus Christ keep us properly aligned?

## **Courtesy (pp. 58-61)**

Wilson says that typically the weak defer to the strong (think of how we treat celebrities). But the Bible calls the strong to defer to the weak. Are you a courteous husband? Courteous Christian in your actions and speech? What would your children say about how courteous you are to your wife? Or to them?

## **Romantic Love (pp. 61-64)**

Have you gotten trapped in this vicious cycle of "romantic" love and its expectations? Do you agree with the "emotional impossibility" of retaining the early sensations of a relationship and that relationships "are supposed to mature"? Do you agree that our manifold callings in this world must inform what healthy romance involves?

"She is discontent because she thinks that her orientation should govern the relationship. He is oblivious to her discontentment because he thinks his orientation should govern the relationship. They are both wrong. She wants him to spend far more time devoted directly to her. He wants to spend more time than he ought on the job" (63). What do you think true romance looked like for pre-Fall Adam and Eve? What might it look like for a Christ-centered husband and wife?

Summary: Write down one specific area of your life you believe you need to address more fully from these two chapters. What is a first action point you will begin to take?

## **Chapter 5: "Keeping Short Accounts"**

### **The Problem of Sin**

1. "Marriage problems are overwhelmingly problems with sin." Agree or disagree? What other ways are used at times to describe marriage problems?
2. Do you have a robust, biblical doctrine of sin? E.g., Do you have a functional, working understanding of Adam's Fall, depravity (the imputation of Adam's sin and the spiritual deadness in which we are all conceived as sinners), etc.? E.g., Do we sin because we are sinners or are we sinners because we sin? Why is this so important?
3. Similarly, why are the doctrines of justification and sanctification (definitive and progressive) so important for a healthy marriage? Please think prayerfully about these things.

4. Has God blessed you with a pattern in your home of “picking up the room” in an ongoing manner? Discuss the implications.

5. Discuss the matter of joyless hypocrisy in the church in the areas. And the fact of a relationship versus the quality of the relationship.

### **Putting Things Right**

1. How should we confess and apologize? What is often missing even in the church in these regards?

2. Do you agree that there is no problem too great when there is genuine fellowship? Conversely, what do you think about the threat of even “small” issues when there is no fellowship?

### **House Rules**

1. Never split up until things are resolved.

2. Never let anyone in your home...

3. Never go anywhere else...

4. Hand signal...

5. Never have sexual relationships...

Doing laundry in the privacy of the home. Men, how will you lead in these matters of the heart?